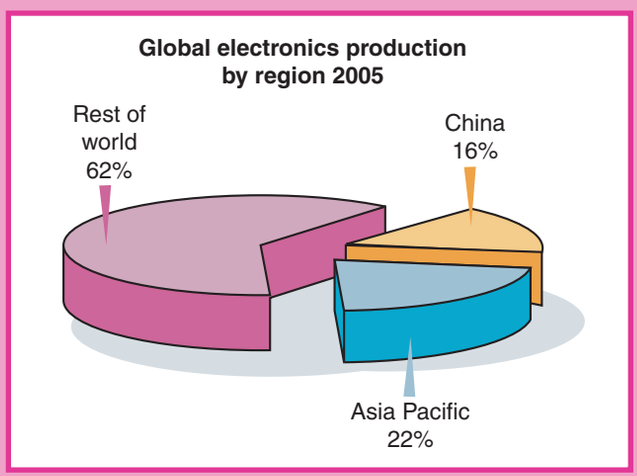
Report says 38% of global electronics now produced in Asia Pacific

Electronics output in the Asia Pacific increased to 38% of the global total in 2005 according to the latest figures from Reed Electronics Research's Yearbook of World Electronics Data; it was only 20% in 1995. More importantly, during this period China's share of global electronics has increased from 3% to 16%.

Despite the rapid growth of China other countries in the region also play an important role in the global electronics industry. South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are all ranked in the Top 10 countries globally in terms of production. In particular, South Korean and Taiwanese companies have established a major presence within the global electronics industry. In other countries such as Singapore and Malaysia companies, with significant government support, are looking to focus on higher value products and move away from low-cost assembly.



For more details, visit: www.rer.co.uk

SMI expands HQ

Structured Materials Industries, Inc. (SMI), has expanded its Piscataway, NJ, USA, headquarter facilities, doubling its size thanks to another year of continuous growth. It will permit SMI to fully separate manufacturing facilities from the Applications Laboratory.

SMI's Customer Service Application Laboratory houses over ten growth systems and is capable of producing a range of oxides, nitrides, carbides, chalcogenides and a range of other materials. Presently under construction are a clean manufacturing area and the integration of clean areas in the applications laboratory.

For more details, visit: www.structuredmaterials.com

Optical Ethernet market to reach $2.7bn

Industry analyst firm CIR, predicts that by 2011 the optical Ethernet components market will grow to $2.7 billion and copper-based Ethernet transceivers will achieve revenues of $4.7 billion. The report, "Optical Components, The Next Wave" says 2008 will be a breakout year for the 10GigE market thanks to the burgeoning use of 10Gbps for high-end servers, many of which now are forced to use multiple 1-Gbps links. With prices falling for 10-Gig lasers and the arrival of low-cost standardized copper-based 10-Gbps connections.

For more details, visit: www.cir-inc.com

Celtic connection gets green light

A consortium consisting of Global Laser (Abertillary, Wales), Compound Semiconductor Technologies Global (Glasgow, Scotland), St Andrews University and Photonix (Glasgow, Scotland) will undertake a £0.5M project, part funded by the Department of Trade and Industry under the 'Next Generation Laser' theme of the UK Technology Programme.

The team will address the gap in the availability of cost effective, high performance laser diodes in the green region of the spectrum due to the lack of suitable direct bandgap, commercial grade semiconductor devices. The chromatic sensitivity of the human eye peaks in the green; the visibility of green lasers is >20 times more visible than equivalent red power levels. Hence compact green lasers have huge market potential in applications driven by eye safety considerations, such as laser projection display systems, industrial machine vision and retinal scanning systems.

The ConVert project will develop a range of compact DPSS laser sources based on second harmonic generation via novel semiconductor laser pumping schemes to address both niche and mass market applications.

CST Project Leader Dr Wyn Meredith commented: "There is a serious bottleneck in cost-effective green laser source technology which is frustrating solution-designers in consumer, industrial and medical markets. This is the first time that a cross-disciplinary team has looked at the problem without the constraints of using an off-the-shelf semiconductor pump source. Our unique foundry model will facilitate rapid prototyping of new pump source designs and significantly accelerate time to market for new solutions."

For more details, visit: www.compoundsemi.co.uk